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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2021 session**

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

Toponymic data files and gazetteers**Report of the Working Group on Geographical Names
Data Management (formerly known as Working Group on
Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers) for 2019 and 2020****Summary****

Experts of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management collaborated to compile the present document, which covers the activities relating to the Working Group in 2019 and 2020. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has caused many changes and challenges to our working lives, the Working Group has not been as active as planned; nonetheless some progress can be reported.

In line with the actions agreed for the period 2019–2021, the Working Group has, among others things, monitored the activities and deliverables of the standardization bodies: Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 211), the Open GIS Consortium (OGC) and the Unicode Consortium. It has continued to provide consultancy and technical advice on the content and structure of data management through, among other things, workshops and conferences. The Working Group maintained and updated a wiki online discussion forum, in particular on the topic of linked open data, and invited the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the linked open data community to use the wiki pages.

In April 2020, a compromise was reached within the expanded Bureau: the name change for the Working Group from “Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers” to “Geographical Names Data Management” was accepted temporarily. The Working Group informed the Group of Experts about the name change in the Group’s Information Bulletin No. 58 and was asked to request the Group to formally ratify the name change and to update the provisional agenda for 2023 accordingly.

* [GEGN.2/2021/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by the Convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management (formerly the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers), Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu of the BKG federal agency for cartography and geodesy of Germany. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/47/CRP.47, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.

